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BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

The three basic requirements for good housekeeping are proper layout and equipment, correct materials handling and storage, and cleanliness and order.

Any facility that implements these basics has laid the foundation for good housekeeping. Using them, the facility can develop special housekeeping practices to deal with its own specific problems. In pursuing cleanliness and order, effective care and maintenance of buildings require special housekeeping practices to reduce the fire danger to buildings.

Proper Layout and Equipment.

Good industrial engineering not only facilitates the movement of raw materials, in-process goods, and finished product but also concentrates the hazards associated with specific aspects of the product process in a single area. For example, in a woodworking facility, all handling of flammable liquids and associated cleaning materials are in one area of the plant. Wiping rags can be concentrated and stored in the appropriately listed waste material storage container (Figure 1). Doing so does not negate the importance of periodic removal of such waste material but does limit the exposure to these materials.

Figure 1
Oily Waste Can
(Source: Courtesy of the Protectoseal Company)

Correct Materials Handling and Storage.

Proper material handling allows for materials to be moved to their specified location without staging them in an area that does not contain the needed level of fire protection, most specifically, automatic sprinklers designed for the hazard. For example, hazardous materials are typically received at the loading dock. Such materials should be properly coded by the supplier so that, when they are received, they are readily identified and can be moved expeditiously to their designated, adequately protected, special hazards storage area, versus being left on the loading dock, which might not be designed for such storage.

Cleanliness and Order.

The type of operation will dictate the level and frequency of cleaning required. Many locations will only require cleaning once per day, but some manufacturing processes might require cleaning at the end of each shift, or possibly even periodically during the shift.

Reference:

Schroll, R.C. Industrial Fire Protection Handbook. Florida: CRC Press. (2002)

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